

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 170230Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1780

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR AS ID

SUBJ: INDONESIAN REACTION TO FRASER VICTORY

BEGIN SUMMARY: INDONESIAN REACTION TO AUSTRALIAN
ELECTORAL VICTORY OF MALCOLM FRASER WAS GENERALLY
CHARACTERIZED BY CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT
AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD INDONESIA WOULD NOT CHANGE AND
THAT CLOSE RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE IF TIMOR PROBLEMS
COULD BE RESOLVED. END SUMMARY

1. FONMIN ADAM MALIK COMMENTED DEC 16 THAT HE WAS
CERTAIN THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA
WOULD NOT CHANGE BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GOOD FOLLOWING
VICTORY OF FRASER AND LIBERAL-NATIONAL COUNTRY COALITION.
DFA SPOKESMAN NANA SUTRESNA TOLD PRESS INDONESIA WELCOMES
FRASER VICTORY AND DOES NOT EXPECT AUSTRALIAN POLICY
TOWARD INDONESIA TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT OF
LABOR GOVERNMENT OF GOUGH WHITLAM. HE ADMITTED THAT
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INDONESIAN-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WOULD BE MUCH IN THE

SPOTLIGHT BECAUSE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, BUT REFUSED TO COMMENT FURTHER. FORMER FONMIN SUBARDJO COMMENTED THAT QUESTION OF WHO WAS TO BE IN POWER IN CANBERRA WAS IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA, BUT LATEST CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT CREATE A PROBLEM.

2. INDONESIAN PRESS COMMENT WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS SAID AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER FRASER WILL CHANGE IN STYLE BUT NOT IN SUBSTANCE, AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA, INCLUDING INDONESIA, WILL CONTINUE. THE PAPER EXPECTED THAT THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF INDONESIA'S ATTITUDE ON EAST TIMOR. SINAR HARAPAN NOTED STATEMENT BY FRASER'S ADVISORS THAT EAST TIMOR PROBLEM IS OVER AFTER OCCUPATION OF DILI BY APODETI ET AL WITH SUPPORT FROM INDONESIAN VOLUNTEERS, AND DECLARED THAT IF THIS IS THE POLICY OF THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE. AMONG STRONGLY PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS, SUARA KARYA EXPECTED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE MANY CHANGES IN AUSTRALIAN -INDONESIAN RELATIONS, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA DECLARED THAT RELATIONS WERE BOUND TO BE BETTER WITH THE NEW LIBERAL-NATIONAL COUNTRY GOVERNMENT THAN WITH THE PREVIOUS LABOR GOVERNMENT, AND BERITA YUDHA SOUNDED ONLY SOUR NOTE IN WONDERING WHETHER CURRENT AUSTRALIAN POSITION IN UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL DEBATES WAS AN INDICATION OF "UNNEIGHBORLINESS." BERITA BUANA COMMENTED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL NOW BE CLOSER TO ASEAN, AND HOPED THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD SEE THAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR ARE ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE FOR AUSTRALIA SINCE THERE WILL NOW BE PEACE IN A NEARBY AREA. RIVES

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